

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 20879 211420Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 TRSE-00 OPR-02 MCT-01 HA-05 A-01 SY-05  
USSS-00 /084 W  
-----115659 211923Z /40

R 211246Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9395  
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL PALERMO  
AMCONSUL TRIESTE  
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 20879

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS SOCI IT  
SUBJ: POLITICAL VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO TROUBLE ITALIAN SCENE

REF: A. TURIN 0498 B. ROME 18866 C.ROME 20538

1. POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAS CONTINUED UNABATED IN ITALY IN THE MONTH  
SINCE INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA, IN A SPEECH ON NOVEMBER 15  
OPENING THE SENATE DEBATE ON PUBLIC ORDER, PRESENTED ALARMING  
FIGURES WHICH SHOWED THAT THE INCIDENCE OF TERRORISM AND POLITICALLY-  
MOTIVATED CRIME HAS CONTINUED TO RISE IN 1977(SEE REF B.)  
A NUMBER OF TERRORIST ACTIONS SINCE NOVEMBER 15 HAVE MADE HEADLINES  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE FATAL SHOOTING IN TURIN  
OF "LA STAMPA" VICE DIRECTOR CARLO CASALEGNO (REF A.)  
AND THE FATAL STABBING OF A YOUNG PCI MEMBER IN BARI ON NOVEMBER 29  
DURING A SCUFFLE INVOLVING RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST YOUTHS. THE  
LATTER INCIDENT LED TO RIOTING AND VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN  
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POLICE AND LEFTIST YOUTHS IN BARI. URBAN WARFARE STRUCK ROME  
ON DECEMBER 11 WHEN EXTREME LEFTIST MARCHED  
IN DEFiance OF A POLICE BAN. DEMONSTRATORS BURNED CARS AND DAMAGED  
PROPERTY, A NUMBER OF MINOR INJURIES WERE REPORTED, AND POLICE  
DETAINED OVER THREE HUNDRED YOUNG PEOPLE, THOUGH ONLY SEVEN WERE  
SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED. MORE RECENTLY, ON DECEMBER 19, ANDER  
AMONN, AN INDUSTRIALIST FROM THE NORMALLY QUIET ORTHERN CITY

OF BOLZANE, WAS KIDNAPPED AND A FAR-LEFT TERRORIST GROUP,  
THE "COMMUNIST FRONT-LINE COMBATANTS CLAIMS TO BE HOLDING  
HIM IN PEOPLE'S" PRISON."

2. EQUALY DISTRESSING ARE THE DAILY ASSAULTS AND BOMB  
ATTACKS CARRIED OUT BY TERRORIST GROUPS WHICH, THOUGH THEY  
SELDOM RESULT IN CASUALTIES, HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE TENSE  
AND UNEASY ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE MORE SPECTACULAR INCIDENTS  
HAVE TAKEN PLACE. THE RATE OF SUCH ATTACKS APPEARS TO HAVE  
INCREASED SOMEWHAT RECENTLY. AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TABULATION  
INDICATES THAT SINCE NOVEMBER 15 THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST 92  
BOMBINGS OF BUSINESSES, PARTY OFFICES, POLICE STATIONS, AND  
EVEN CHURCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE DC HAS BEEN THE POLITICAL PARTY

HARDEST HIT BY THE VIOLENT EXTREMISTS (25 BOMBINGS), FOLLOWED  
BY THE FAR-RIGHT MSI(9). FAR-RIGHT GROUPS HAVE CARRIED OUT ONLY  
FIVE BOMBING ATTACKS ON OFFICES OF THE PCI AND OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS  
SINCE NOVEMBER 15. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE ALMOST DAILY SCUFFLES  
AND FIST FIGHTS BETWEEN EXTREME RIGHTISTS AND LEFTIST IN MANY CITIES.  
THESE OCCASIONALLY LEAD TO MORE SERIOUS VIOLENCE.

3. REF C. PROVIDES AN ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION  
AT YEAR'S END AND DISCUSSES THE OUTLOOK FOR 1978. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 TURIN 498  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, SOCI, IT  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009